

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



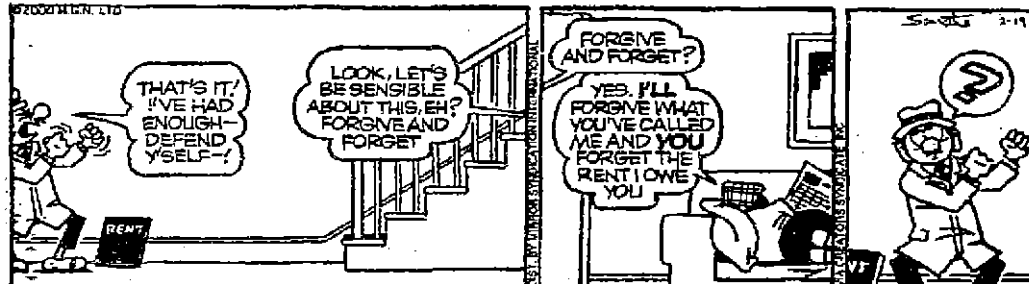
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



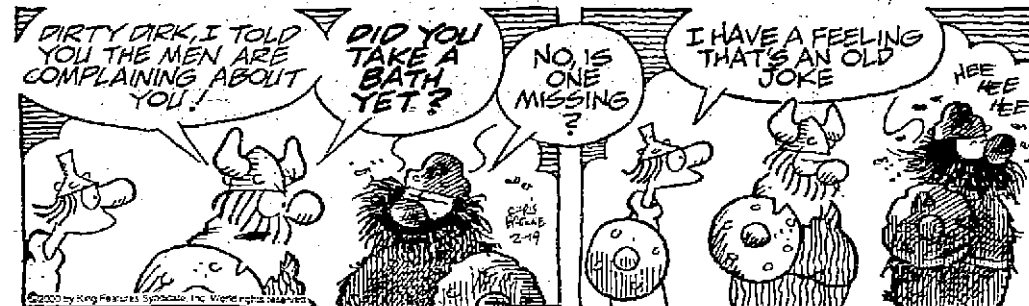
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



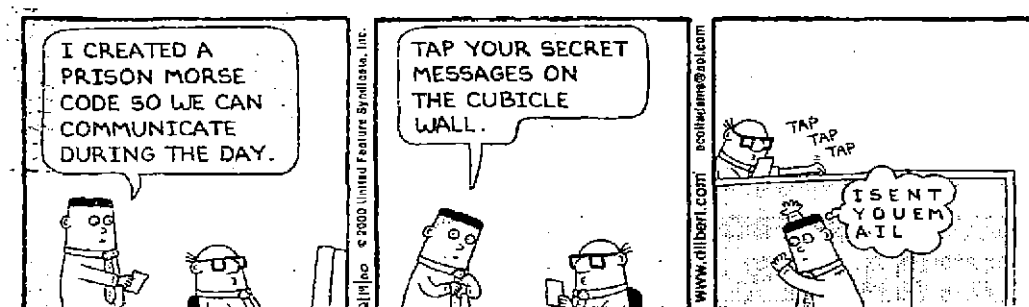
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



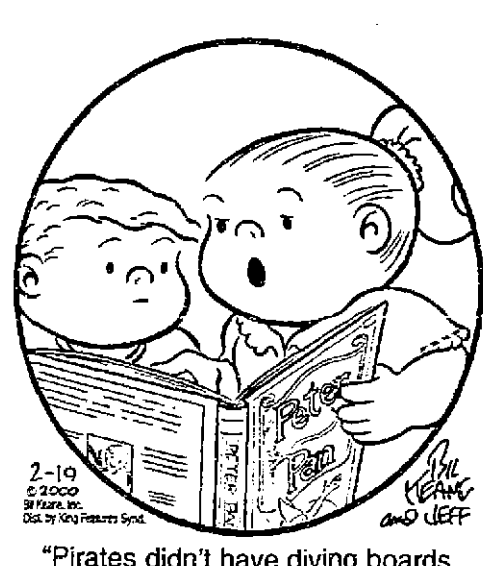
DILBERT



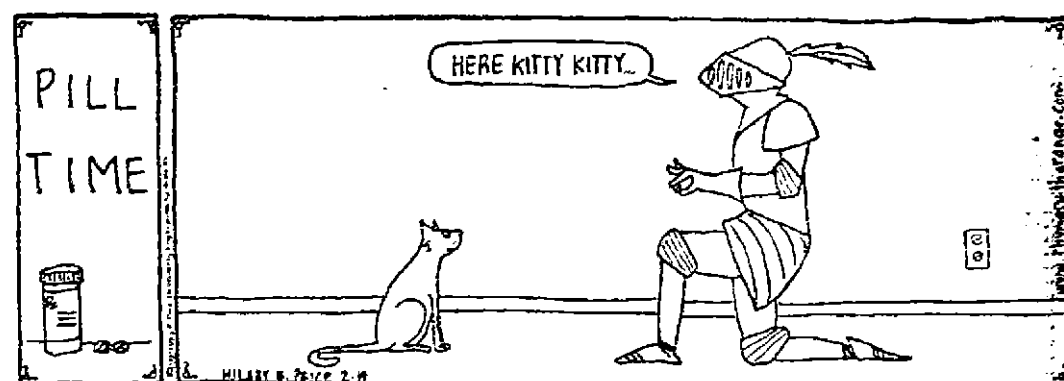
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



"My boss is a very hard person to get in to see."

Today's Birthdays

Movie director John Frankenheimer ("Seconds") is 70. Singer Smokey Robinson is 60. Actress Carlin Glynn is 60. Singer Lou Christie is 57. Actor Michael Nader is 55. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath) is 52. Actor Jeff Daniels is 45. Talk-show host Lorraine Crook is 43. Britain's Prince Andrew is 40.

I NEED HELP



Trixie's close call.

SCRABBLE

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L	L	P	P	A	A	L	RACK 1
N	H	E	E	F	S	W	RACK 2
Z	H	H	B	F	E	H	RACK 3
S	H	R	H	N	A	E	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 120-130 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 2-19-00 © 2000 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

—WHEEL

A U R O L J G D A X V S P N K
I F C A X V S Q S O L J H E C
A X V T R P N P L J H F D B
H Y X V G S I R R E F T R P O
M T K I S N G E O D Y B Z X W
U T F R N R I Q C O N S L J I
G W F I D C E R K A Y X I C W
V A N Y F E E T E C N A L A B
G G T L R T E T T E L U O R D
S O R F A P O N L O T K J T I
G N C W F E L D D A P S E C B

Friday's unlisted clue: SHAVED
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Saturday's unlisted clue hint: AN AMUSEMENT RIDE
Balance Fifth Potter's Slewing
Cart Fly Routette Wagon
Cog Free Spinning Water
Daisy Paddle Sprocket

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Sunday, Feb. 20
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) If only you didn't have so many things to worry about, you would be able to move much more efficiently.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Take the business of romance very seriously; don't forget all the important trappings.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It seems that anything you tell your parents is bound to be taken the wrong way right now.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You experience satisfying success with a number of small projects at this time.
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You are far from your usual bouncy, giddy self.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Take your car in for a tune-up and then go for a joy ride.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The pull in too many directions is overwhelming.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might derive a great deal of satisfaction from doing a small thing to help others.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) As much as it might pain you to do so, take things slowly and step by step.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Money may not be the issue so much as quality of life.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) If you don't feel completely right about a business agreement, don't sign the papers.
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The details for you are not as important as the overview.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

A typical plan is to win the spade king and cash a high trump, guarding against a loss to a possible singleton queen with West. When all follow low, South crosses to dummy's diamond ace and takes a trump finesse. This brings good news and bad. The finesse wins, but the bad break leaves South with an unavoidable trump loser. Even worse, it leaves East with a potential entry. South then cashes one more trump and tries to run dummy's diamonds. Unfortunately, East ruffs the third round, and the club shift sends the game one down. What dangers should South have anticipated? Barring unusually bad breaks, he could lose his game only if West had the club ace and South had to lose the lead to East. To guard against this possibility, South should win the spade lead in dummy and take a deep trump finesse to his nine. If it loses to a possible 10 with West, South wins the spade continuation and cashes one high trump. If trumps split, all is well. If they don't, South crosses to dummy to finesse against East's queen, holding his losses to only three tricks. In today's layout, the deep trump finesse wins (a safety play), and after picking up trumps, South is rewarded with an easy overtrick.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 7 2	♠ J 9 3	♥ Q 10 8 6	♥ 7 4
♦ 7 5 4	♦ A K Q 10	♣ 9 8 5 3	♣ J 10 9 2
♣ A Q 7	♣ J 10 9 2		

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
2NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Spade five

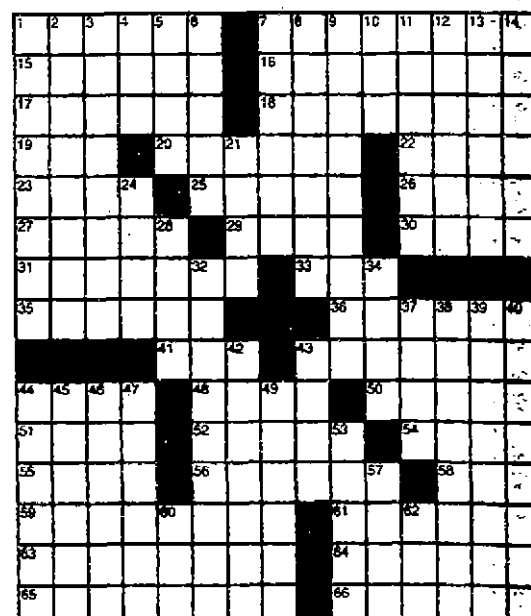
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0108

- ACROSS**
- One punting, e.g.
 - Grazing site
 - Growth rings
 - Insinuation
 - The human senses, e.g.
 - They ended around 1000
 - Much/much separator
 - Like some Winter Olympics events
 - Well-disposed
 - to one's ears
 - Chap
 - Gray of "Six Pack"
 - Like a lot, maybe
 - Dribble
 - Sports figure
 - Make secret, in a way
 - Carried through on
 - Like Ontario vis-à-vis Erie
 - Discoverer of New Zealand
 - Propitiatory present
 - "Oye Como Va" band
 - Supt.'s inferior
 - Far from seedy
 - Last name in fashion
 - Figures
 - Victorious
 - Fleece
 - Rework
 - Increase
 - "Baled Hay" humorist
 - Kind of missile
 - Labor class?
 - Devoted
 - Nobel's birthplace
 - After-dinner order
 - Puts in
- DOWN**
- Like many babies
 - Private
 - Herald
 - His tomb was discovered in 1922
 - Sparkle
 - Free from
 - Take initial steps?
 - Helped
 - Kind of income
 - Ham's place
 - Ham's places
 - Spade player
 - Condition treated with ferrous sulfate
 - Like poor faxes, perhaps
 - Others
 - One for the record books?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PHILIPS RAREBIT
ANATEMPERATURE
OUTSIDEAGITATOR
PLITS LEEDS TNN
TMS PLANE LOMA
LIA PAINT MANET
ENTWINES MAXENE
EAGER BAYED
PSALMS MACARONI
APPLY SIZES NOG
ROPY RAMOS MEIN
AKA HELIO LASSO
GARRISONKEILLOR
ONETHINGGATATIME
NELSONS SCRAPED



Puzzle by Joe DiPietro

28 They may get in your hair
43 Get the goods
49 It may house the speaker
53 It comes from the heart
57 Future queen?
60 Eng. award
62 Satisfied

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.